

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 25. (CANCELED).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A buffer tube comprising:

a plurality of individual optic fibers located within the buffer tube and arranged in a plurality of fiber optic bundles; and

a binder ~~surrounding~~ stranded around the fiber optic bundle, wherein;

the binder comprises a flexible material and a plurality of physically detectable features positioned within the flexible material, wherein the physically detectable features contain physically active elements, and wherein the plurality of physically detectable features are detectable by an automated detection system during manufacture.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The buffer tube of Claim 26, wherein the ~~binder is detectable due to~~ physically active elements are a fluorescing elements.

28. (CANCELED).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The buffer tube of Claim 26, wherein the ~~binder is~~
~~detectable due to a~~physically active elements are magnetic or metal strips.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The buffer tube of Claim 26, wherein the binder is
detectable due to an identifiable marking.

31. - 33. (CANCELED).